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ABSTRACT

This population report describes young persons between the ages of 14 and 24 born during a period of high birth rates that followed the end of the Second World War. It includes data on their numbers, racial composition, school enrollment; educational attainment; marital status, family composition, fertility, migration, voting behavior, labor force status, occupation, income, and veteran status. It presents extensive tables that analyze each variable and that show their interaction. Obtained from the March and October 1972 Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census, the data may reflect some errcr from response, reporting, and sample variability; however, the report provides tables for deducing standard error measures. (Author/LAA)

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CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICAN YOUTH: 1972

- Population
- Educational attainment
- School enrollment
- Voting
- Migration
- Marital status and family status
- Fertility
- Employment status and occupation
- Income
- Veteran status

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CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICAN YOUTH: 1972

INTRODUCTION

This report updates Current Population Reports "Characteristics of American Youth: 1971," Series P-23, No. 40. The young persons described in this report--those 14 to 24 years old--were born during a period of high birth rates that followed the end of the Second World War. Data are included on their numbers, racial composition, school enrollment, educational attainment, marital status, family composition, fertility, migration, voting behavior, labor force status, occupation, and income.

POPULATION. American youth comprised 20 percent of the total population of the United States on April 1, 1972.[1] In 1960, young persons of this age had comprised only 15 percent of the total population. In absolute numbers, there were 42.4 million persons 14 to 24 years old in 1972, representing an increase of 15.2 million, or 56 percent, over the 27.1 million in 1960. This expansion resulted in a younger average age of the population in 1972 than in 1960 as indicated by the decline in median age from 29.5 years in 1960 to 28.0 years in 1972. The median age reached a low of 27.9 in 1971, but increased slightly since then because of recent declines in fertility. The population of high school age (14 to 17 years) was 16.4 million in 1972, an increase of 5.3 million, or 47 percent, over the 1960 population. The population of the primary ages of college attendance (18 to 21 years) was 15.2 million in 1972, an increase of 5.8 million, or 61 percent, over the 1960 population of college age. Youth of Negro and other races comprised a slightly higher proportion of all persons of Negro and other races, 22 percent, than did white youth of all white persons, 20 percent.

The number of persons of high school age (14 to 17 years old) will increase to 16.8 million in 1975 and then will decline to 14.0 million in 1984. The college-age population (18 to 21 years old) will reach 16.8 million by 1980 and will decline to 15.0 million by 1985.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT. American youth during the 1960's received a more extensive education than did the youth during the 1950's. For instance, among young adults who would have recently completed their schooling (persons 25 to 29 years old), 82 percent of the whites and 67 percent of persons of Negro and other races were at least high school graduates in 1972, as compared with 64 percent of the whites and 39 percent of the persons of Negro and other races of this age in 1960. High school graduates were also more likely to have gone on to college in 1972 than in 1960. In March 1972, among persons 20 to 24 years old who had completed high school, 53 percent of the men and 42 percent of the women had completed some college, as compared with 42 percent of the men and 33 percent of the women 20 to 24 years old in 1960.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT. The youth of America were more likely to be enrolled in school in October 1972 than they were in October 1960. The proportion of young persons of high school age (14 to 17 years old) enrolled in school was 93 percent in 1972, as compared with 90 percent in 1960. Young Americans were also staying in school longer in 1972 than in 1960. For example, 46 percent of the 18-and 19-year olds were enrolled in school in 1972 as compared with 38 percent in 1960. The proportion of persons 20 to 24 years old enrolled in school increased from 13 percent in 1960 to 22 percent in 1972.

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[1]Consistent with Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 483.

Of the 40.9 million persons 14 to 24 years old in the civilian noninstitutional population in October 1972, 16 percent were enrolled in college, 39 percent were enrolled below the college level, 7 percent had left school after completing 1 to 3 years of college, 23 percent had left after completing high school, and 12 percent had dropped out of school without completing high school.

The total number of students enrolled in college in October 1972 was 8.3 million. Of those, 727,000 or 9 percent of the total college enrollment, were black college students. The number of blacks enrolled in college increased by 211 percent between 1964 and 1972. The students enrolled in college were receiving considerably higher education than had their parents. Among white youths enrolled in college who were living with their families,[2] 57 percent were from families whose head had not completed any college. Among Negro family members enrolled in college, 78 percent were from families whose head had not attended college, including 56 percent whose head was not a high school graduate, in October 1971.

The likelihood that a young person will attend college is directly related to the income of his family. In October 1971, among families who had members of college age (18 to 24 years old) and whose family income was $15,000 or over, 59 percent had a member attending college as a full-time student. Among families with members of college age whose family income was under $3,000, about 14 percent had a member enrolled full-time in college.[2]

There were more college students 14 to 24 years old in 1971 living with their parents or relatives than there were living in college housing--about 40 percent were living with their parents or relatives and 29 percent were living in college housing. Smaller proportions were living in their own household or had other living arrangements. Moreover, college students were less likely to be living in college housing in 1971 than they were in 1966; although the proportion living with their parents or relatives did not change significantly between the 2 years.

VOTING. Contrary to some expectations, young Americans of voting age did not vote to the same extent as did older persons. In the November 1972 Presidential election, only about 50 percent of the persons 18 to 24 years old reported that they had voted, as compared with 66 percent of the persons 25 years old and over. Of the 11 million newly enfranchised 18- to 20-year olds, about 6.4 million or 58 percent reported that they were registered to vote, and 5.3 million or 48 percent reported that they voted.

White youths under 25 years old were more likely to report that they voted than were Negro youths, 52 percent compared to 35 percent. Reported registration rates were also higher among white youths than among Negro youths: 61 percent and 43 percent, respectively.

MIGRATION. American youth are a very mobile group. In the 12 month interval between March 1970 and March 1971, 10.5 million young Americans 14 to 24 years old moved to a new address. This constituted 26 percent of the age group compared with 14 percent of persons 25 years old and over. Those 14 to 17 years old, who were most likely to be enrolled in high school and living with their parents, were least likely to have moved--12 percent. Those 22 to 24 years old were the most mobile--44 percent of the persons of this age moved between 1970 and 1971.

MARITAL STATUS AND FAMILY STATUS. Young men and women were more likely to be single in 1972 than were those in the comparable age group in 1960. Among young persons 18 to 24

[2]Relatives of the household head, excluding persons who are married, spouse present.

years old in 1972, 48 percent of the women and 68 percent of the men were still single. In 1960, the comparable proportions were 41 percent and 65 percent, respectively. Only a small proportion of persons of this age are divorced or living away from their spouse because of marital discord--1.9 percent of the men and 4.8 percent of the women in 1972. Despite their great mobility, the youth of America continue to live in families (either their own or their parents). About 90 percent lived in families in 1972 and less than 1 percent lived in group quarters. About 28 percent of the men 18 to 24 years old were family heads and about 43 percent of the women were wives of family heads.

FERTILITY. The average number of births expected by wives 18 to 24 years old declined from 2.4 to 2.3 between 1971 and 1972, and represented a continuation of the downturn in the birth expections of young wives. The corresponding figure in 1967 was 2.9. Among young wives the number of children varies by income and education. For example, young women 15 to 24 years old living with their husband with a family income in 1971 of $10,000 or more were likely to have fewer children under 5 years old than were those women whose family income was less than $10,000. And among wives 22 to 24 years old, those who had completed some college, expected 2.2 births overall compared with 2.7 births expected by those who were not high school graduates.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND OCCUPATION. Of the 9.1 million young men 20 to 24 years old in 1972, 74 percent were in the civilian labor force, 12 percent were in the Armed Forces, and 14 percent were not in the labor force. Among the employed men of this age 96 percent were working in some nonagricultural industry (including 12 percent who were working for a local, State, or Federal government agency) and 4 percent were agricultural workers. Among the young women of this age group, 59 percent were in the labor force and 32 percent were not in the labor force and were keeping house as their major activity.

Teenagers, 16 and 17 years old, are less likely to be in the labor force than young persons 20 to 24 years old. However, 48 percent of men and 37 percent of women in this age group were working in the civilian labor force in 1972.

INCOME. Both young adult men and adult women were likely to be income recipients in 1971. About 58 percent of young men 14 to 19 years old received incomes in 1971; but only about 7 percent were working year round full time and only 38 percent had incomes of $1,000 or more. Among persons 20 to 24 years old, 94 percent of the men and 76 percent of the women had incomes in 1971. Twenty-two percent of the men had incomes of $7,000 or more as compared with 7 percent of the women. The median income in 1971 of young families whose head was under 25 years old and a year-round full-time civilian worker was $8,822.

VETERAN STATUS. About 1.9 million young men 20 to 24 years old have served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era, representing about one-third of all men in the age group. About 92 percent of these veterans were in the labor force in October 1972.

Since 1960 the number of youths 14 to 24 years old in the United States has increased from 27.1 million to 42.4 million, or by 56 percent. In 1972, persons 14 to 24 years old were 20 percent of the total population of the United States. In 1950 they were 16 percent of the total population.

Table 1. TOTAL POPULATION AND PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD: 1910 TO 1972

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total population	14 to 24 years old	
		Number	Percent
1972	208,439	42,379	20.3
1971	206,557	41,662	20.2
1970	204,335	40,285	19.7
1960	180,007	27,136	15.1
1950	151,718	24,623	16.2
1940	131,669	26,327	20.0
1930	122,775	24,805	20.2
1920	105,711	20,754	19.6
1910	91,972	19,969	21.7

Source: 1970, 1971, and 1972 consistent with Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 483. 1910-1960--complete count census data. 1950, 1960, 1970, 1971, and 1972 data include Armed Forces overseas. 1971 and 1972 data as of April 1, other years as of census date.

Since 1960 the median age of the population of the United States has declined by a year and a half--from 29.5 years to 28.0 years.

Table 2. MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION: 1910 TO 1972

Year	Median age
1972	28.0
1971	27.9
1970	28.0
1960	29.5
1950	30.2
1940	29.0
1930	26.5
1920	25.3
1910	24.1

Source: 1970, 1971, and 1972 consistent with Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 483. 1910-1960--complete count census data. 1950, 1960, 1970, 1971, and 1972 data include Armed Forces overseas. 1971 and 1972 data as of April 1, other years as of census date.

Among persons of Negro and other races, youths constitute a slightly larger proportion of all ages than do white youths. In 1972, 22 percent of all persons of Negro and other races were 14 to 24 years old, whereas 20 percent of the white population were in this age range.

Table 3. TOTAL POPULATION AND PERSONS 14 to 24 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: 1910 TO 1972

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	White			Negro and other races		
	Total	14 to 24 years old		Total	14 to 24 years old	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1972	182,460	36,585	20.1	25,979	5,794	22.3
1971	181,021	36,094	19.9	25,537	5,568	21.8
1970	179,305	34,986	19.5	25,029	5,299	21.2
1960	159,467	23,817	14.9	20,540	3,319	16.2
1950	135,511	21,653	16.0	16,207	2,970	18.3
1940	118,215	23,429	19.8	13,454	2,898	21.5
1930	110,287	21,979	19.9	[1]11,891	[1]2,707	[1]22.8
1920	94,821	18,291	19.3	[1]10,463	[1]2,386	[1]22.8
1910	81,732	17,561	21.5	[1]9,828	[1]2,326	[1]23.7

[1]Negro only.

Source: 1970, 1971, and 1972, consistent with Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 483. 1910-1960--complete count census data. 1950, 1960, 1970, 1971, and 1972 data include Armed Forces overseas. 1971 and 1972 data as of April 1, other years as of census date.

The number of persons of high school age (14 to 17 years old) has increased by 5.3 million and the number in the primary college ages (18 to 21 years old) has increased by 5.8 million since 1960. This trend will continue for the next 5 to 10 years. The number of high school age youths will reach a maximum of 16.8 million in 1975 and then begin to decline and the number of college age youths will peak at 16.8 million in 1980 and then begin to decline.

Table 4. PERSONS 14 TO 25 YEARS OLD, BY AGE, 1920 TO 1972 AND PROJECTIONS TO 1985

(In thousands)

Year	14 to 17 years old	18 to 21 years old	22 to 25 years old
1985 (projection)	14,252	15,026	16,774
1984	14,001	15,608	16,899
1980	15,516	16,819	16,652
1976	16,734	16,574	15,361
1975	16,826	16,318	15,039
1974	16,817	15,964	14,754
1973	16,645	15,632	14,464
1972 (estimate)	16,429	15,203	14,234
1971	16,157	14,902	13,367
1970 (census)	15,844	14,613	12,631
1960	11,162	9,440	8,711
1950	8,473	8,998	9,607
1940	9,720	9,754	9,166
1930	9,341	9,027	8,523
1920	7,736	7,344	7,597

Source: 1973 to 1985 unpublished projection consistant with Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 493. 1970 to 1972 consistent with Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 483. 1920 to 1960 complete count census data. 1950 to 1972 data include Armed Forces overseas. 1971 and 1972 data as of April 1. 1920 to 1970 data as of census date. 1973 to 1985 projections as of July 1.

There were more college students 14 to 24 years old in 1971 living with their parents or relatives than there were living in college housing--40 percent were living with their parents or relatives and 29 percent were living in college housing. A smaller proportion (18 percent) lived in their own household while 14 percent had other living arrangements. College students 22 to 24 years old were less likely to be living in college housing or with their parents or relatives than were younger students 14 to 19 years old; and yet, one quarter of college students 22 to 24 years old were living with their parents or relatives.

College students were less likely to be living in college housing in 1971 than they were in 1966 (29 percent in 1971 compared to 34 percent in 1966); whereas, the proportion living with their parents or relatives did not change significantly between the two years and the proportion living in their own household increased by about 4 percentage points.

Table 5. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY AGE: OCTOBER 1971 AND 1966

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Living arrangements	Total, 14 to 24 years old	14 to 19 years old	20 and 21 years old	22 to 24 years old
1971				
Total enrolled.....	6,494	3,010	1,997	1,487
Total reporting living arrangements.....	6,222	2,863	1,943	1,416
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In own household.....	17.9	3.5	18.0	46.8
Living with parents or relatives.	39.7	50.2	34.6	25.5
Living in college housing.....	28.6	39.4	27.5	8.5
Other living arrangements.....	13.8	6.9	19.9	19.3
1966				
Total enrolled.....	5,074	2,645	1,465	964
Total reporting living arrangements.....	4,962	2,580	1,450	930
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In own household.....	13.9	2.5	12.2	48.3
Living with parents or relatives.	38.4	46.3	36.1	20.1
Living in college housing.....	34.3	42.1	34.0	13.3
Other living arrangements.....	13.4	9.2	17.9	18.4

Source: Current Population Survey.

Young adults are staying in school longer. In October 1972, about 46 percent of 18- and 19-year olds were enrolled in school as compared with around four in ten in 1960 and about three in ten in 1950. Among persons 20 to 24 years old, 22 percent were enrolled in school in October 1972 as compared with 13 percent in 1960 and 9 percent in 1950.

Table 6. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY AGE: 1910 TO 1972

(Numbers in thousands)

Year and enrollment	14 to 17 years old	18 and 19 years old	20 to 24 years old
1972, total	16,359	7,462	17,117
Number enrolled	15,267	3,458	3,692
Percent enrolled	93.3	46.3	21.6
1970, total	15,718	6,958	15,594
Number enrolled	14,796	3,322	3,359
Percent enrolled	94.1	47.7	21.5
1960, total	11,341	4,733	10,330
Number enrolled	10,240	1,816	1,350
Percent enrolled	90.3	38.4	13.1
1950, total	8,383	4,036	10,928
Number enrolled	6,988	1,199	1,001
Percent enrolled	83.4	29.7	9.2
1940, total	9,720	5,019	11,588
Number enrolled	7,709	1,449	761
Percent enrolled	79.3	28.9	6.6
1930, total	9,341	4,593	10,870
Number enrolled	6,826	1,165	801
Percent enrolled	73.1	25.4	7.4
1920, total	7,736	3,741	9,277
Number enrolled	4,768	666	(NA)
Percent enrolled	61.6	17.8	(NA)
1910, total	7,220	3,691	9,057
Number enrolled	4,250	689	(NA)
Percent enrolled	58.9	18.7	(NA)

NA Not available.

Source: 1950-1972--October Current Population Survey data, civilian noninstitutional population; 1910-1940--census data based on a complete count of the resident population.

Over half (55 percent) of all persons 14 to 24 years old in the United States in October 1972 were enrolled in school or college. This included 6.6 million persons enrolled in college and 15.9 million enrolled below college. Since 1960, the total population 14 to 24 years old has increased by 55 percent, college enrollment by 132 percent, and enrollment below the college level by 50 percent.

Table 7. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY LEVEL: OCTOBER 1945 TO OCTOBER 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Year	Total, 14 to 24 years old	In school		Not in school
		Below college	In college	
1972	40,938	15,865	6,552	18,521
1971	39,695	15,813	6,494	17,388
1970	38,270	15,413	6,065	16,795
1969	36,731	15,102	6,082	15,548
1960	26,404	10,589	2,820	12,995
1950	23,347	7,338	1,851	14,159
1945	19,980	7,430	730	11,820
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
1972	100.0	38.8	16.0	45.2
1971	100.0	39.8	16.4	43.8
1970	100.0	40.3	15.8	43.9
1969	100.0	41.1	16.6	42.3
1960	100.0	40.1	10.7	49.2
1950	100.0	31.4	7.9	60.6
1945	100.0	37.2	3.7	59.2

Source: Current Population Survey.

College enrollment among Negroes has increased dramatically in the past several years--from 234,000 in 1964 to 727,000 in 1972, an increase of 211 percent. In 1964, Negroes comprised 5 percent of total college enrollment in the United States. In 1972, they comprised 9 percent of all college enrollment.

Table 8. COLLEGE ENROLLMENT OF PERSONS 14 TO 34 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: OCTOBER 1972 AND OCTOBER 1964

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Race	Enrolled, 1972		Enrolled, 1964	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All races	8,313	100.0	4,643	100.0
White	7,458	89.7	4,337	93.4
Negro	727	8.7	234	5.0
Other	128	1.5	72	1.6

Source: Current Population Survey.

Thirty-three percent of all persons in the primary ages of college attendance, 18 to 21 years old, were attending college in October 1972. Among whites of this age, 35 percent were enrolled in college and among Negroes of this age 22 percent were enrolled in college.

Table 9. COLLEGE ENROLLMENT OF PERSONS 18 TO 21 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: OCTOBER 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Race	Total, 18 to 21 years old	Enrolled in college	
		Number	Percent
All races	14,417	4,796	33.3
White	12,454	4,328	34.8
Negro	1,805	397	22.0
Other	158	71	44.9
Spanish origin[1]	791	130	16.4

[1]Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey.

There were 9.6 million persons 14 to 24 years old who were married and living with their spouse in October 1971. Among the men, 18 percent were enrolled in school, as compared with 7 percent of the women. Among those of this age of "other marital status" (mostly single) about two-thirds of the men and women were enrolled in school.

Table 10. ENROLLMENT STATUS OF PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Enrollment status and sex	Married, spouse present		Other marital status[1]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Both sexes	9,572	100.0	30,123	100.0
Enrolled	1,049	11.0	20,096	66.7
Not enrolled	8,523	89.0	10,027	33.3
Male	3,548	100.0	15,642	100.0
Enrolled	636	17.9	10,553	67.5
Not enrolled	2,912	82.1	5,089	32.5
Female	6,024	100.0	14,479	100.0
Enrolled	412	6.8	9,542	65.9
Not enrolled	5,612	93.2	4,937	34.1

[1]Comprised of persons who were single, widowed, divorced or separated, or other married persons with spouse absent.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Men enrolled in college are more likely to be married than are women enrolled in college. In 1971, 29 percent of the men 14 to 34 years old who were enrolled in college were married and living with their wife compared with 19 percent of the women who were married and living with their husband.

Table 11. MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 14 TO 34 YEARS OLD ENROLLED IN COLLEGE BY AGE, RACE, AND SEX: OCTOBER 1971

(Civilian noninstitutional population)

Marital status and race	Male			Female		
	Total, 14 to 34 years	14 to 21 years	22 to 34 years	Total, 14 to 34 years	14 to 21 years	22 to 24 years
ALL RACES						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married, spouse present	29.2	6.3	57.0	19.0	7.6	48.6
Other marital status	70.8	93.7	43.0	81.0	92.4	51.4
WHITE						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married, spouse present	30.0	6.8	58.0	19.3	7.7	50.2
Other marital status	70.0	93.2	42.0	80.7	92.3	49.8
NEGRO						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married, spouse present	21.5	2.4	48.3	14.2	5.5	34.0
Other marital status	78.5	97.6	51.7	85.8	94.5	66.0

Source: Current Population Survey.

College students who are married are more likely to be enrolled on a part-time basis than are students of some other marital status. Among the men students 14 to 24 years old who were married and living with their wife, 34 percent were enrolled on a part-time basis as compared with 9 percent of those who were of some other marital status (primarily single). Among women students of this age who were married and living with their husband, 44 percent were enrolled part time.

Table 12. MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD ENROLLED IN COLLEGE, BY WHETHER ATTENDING FULL TIME AND SEX: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Marital status	Male			Female		
	Total enrolled	Enrolled full time	Enrolled part time	Total enrolled	Enrolled full time	Enrolled part time
Total enrolled.....	3,730	3,240	490	2,765	2,347	418
Married, spouse present.....	590	390	200	322	181	141
Other marital status.....	3,140	2,850	290	2,443	2,166	277
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION						
Total enrolled.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married, spouse present.....	15.8	12.0	40.8	11.6	7.7	33.7
Other marital status.....	84.2	88.0	59.2	88.4	92.3	66.3
Total enrolled.....	100.0	86.9	13.1	100.0	84.9	15.1
Married, spouse present.....	100.0	66.1	33.9	100.0	56.2	43.8
Other marital status.....	100.0	90.8	9.2	100.0	88.7	11.3

Source: Current Population Survey.

Twenty-five percent of white persons 14 to 24 years old, and 42 percent of Negroes, who were not enrolled in school in October 1971 had dropped out before completing high school.

Table 13. PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED AND RACE: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Years of school completed	All races		White		Negro	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, not enrolled.....	17,389	100.0	14,992	100.0	2,218	100.0
Elementary: 8 years or less.....	1,380	7.9	1,071	7.1	278	12.5
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	3,372	19.4	2,682	17.9	658	29.7
4 years.....	8,971	51.6	7,838	52.3	1,058	47.7
College: 1 to 3 years.....	2,395	13.8	2,208	14.7	161	7.3
4 years or more.....	1,271	7.3	1,195	8.0	64	2.9

Source: Current Population Survey.

Among persons 18 to 24 years old, those living outside metropolitan areas were more likely than those living inside metropolitan areas to have dropped out of school before graduating from high school--21 percent versus 15 percent. Within large metropolitan areas (SMSA's of 250,000 or more), those living in poverty areas were more likely than those living outside poverty areas to be school dropouts--32 percent versus 12 percent.

Table 14. PERSONS 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD ENROLLED IN SCHOOL OR NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, BY RESIDENCE AND RACE: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Residence	All races		White		Negro	
	Enrolled in school	Not in school, not high school graduate	Enrolled in school	Not in school, not high school graduate	Enrolled in school	Not in school, not high school graduate
United States....	7,163	4,025	6,278	3,156	773	825
Metropolitan.....	4,955	2,348	4,277	1,792	589	530
Nonmetropolitan.....	2,207	1,676	2,002	1,365	185	295
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more.....	4,267	1,952	3,682	1,467	501	459
In poverty areas.....	426	596	202	352	212	239
In nonpoverty areas..	3,839	1,357	3,480	1,115	288	219
PERCENT[1]						
United States....	30.3	17.0	30.6	15.4	27.0	28.8
Metropolitan.....	31.9	15.1	32.3	13.5	28.2	25.4
Nonmetropolitan.....	27.2	20.6	27.5	18.8	23.7	37.7
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more.....	32.1	14.7	32.7	13.0	27.4	25.1
In poverty areas.....	23.2	32.5	19.5	33.9	27.6	31.1
In nonpoverty areas..	33.5	11.9	34.0	10.9	27.1	20.6

[1]Percent based on all persons 18 to 24 years old in each residence and racial category.

Note: Students who temporarily live away from home while attending college are counted as members of their parental family unless they are married and living with their spouse.

College students today are receiving much more education than their parents a generation ago. Among white family members enrolled in college in 1971, 57 percent grew up in families in which the head had not completed any years of college, including 20 percent who were from families in which the head had not completed high school. Among Negro family members enrolled in college, the corresponding proportions were 78 percent and 56 percent, respectively.

Table 15. FAMILY MEMBERS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY FAMILY HEAD: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population. Excludes persons in families whose head is a member of the Armed Forces)

Years of school completed by family head	All races		White		Negro	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, family members enrolled in college[1]	5,096	100.0	4,544	100.0	467	100.0
Less than 4 years of high school	1,201	23.6	909	20.0	262	56.1
High school, 4 years	1,811	35.5	1,678	36.9	101	21.8
College, 1 to 3 years	782	15.3	722	15.9	47	10.1
College, 4 years or more	1,300	25.5	1,233	27.1	55	11.8

[1]Excludes the family head and any other family members who are married, spouse present.

Source: Current Population Survey.

About 43 percent of all persons 16 to 24 years old were enrolled in school in the fall of 1971 and about 34 percent were employed and not in school.

Table 16. ENROLLMENT AND LABOR FORCE STATUS OF PERSONS 16 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Noninstitutional population)

Enrollment and labor force status	Total		White		Negro and other races	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, 16 to 24 years old	33,238	100.0	28,819	100.0	4,420	100.0
In school	14,262	42.9	12,398	43.0	1,865	42.2
Not in school:						
In Armed Forces	1,699	5.1	1,518	5.3	181	4.1
Employed[1]	11,308	34.0	9,948	34.5	1,359	30.7
Unemployed[1]	1,387	4.2	1,071	3.7	318	7.2
Not in labor force[1]	4,578	13.8	3,880	13.5	698	15.8

[1]Current Population Survey data tabulated for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: Current Population Survey.

College attendance is directly related to family income. Among families with members of college age in 1971, 59 percent of those with incomes of $15,000 or more had a member attending college full time as compared with about 14 percent of those with incomes under $3,000.

Table 17. FAMILIES WITH MEMBERS 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY FULL-TIME COLLEGE ATTENDANCE AND FAMILY INCOME: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Family income[1]	Total families with members 18 to 24 years old[2]	With members in college full time	
		Number	Percent
Total	9,644	3,692	38.3
Under $3,000	731	102	14.0
$3,000 to $4,999	935	202	21.6
$5,000 to $7,499	1,310	379	28.9
$7,500 to $9,999	1,448	485	33.5
$10,000 to $14,999	2,382	1,004	42.1
$15,000 and over	2,129	1,255	58.9
Not reported	709	261	36.8

[1] Income for preceding 12 months.
[2] Excludes family members who are married, spouse present.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Both young adult white persons and persons of Negro and other races have made increases in their educational attainment. The percentage increase for persons of Negro and other races has been especially dramatic. Overall, the proportion of young adults 25 to 29 years old who were at least high school graduates increased from 38 percent in 1940 to 80 percent in 1972.

Table 18. LEVEL OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY PERSONS 25 TO 29 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: 1940 TO 1972

Year and race	Percent by level of school completed	
	4 years of high school or more	4 years of college or more
All races:		
1972	79.8	19.0
1971	77.2	16.9
1970	75.4	16.4
1969	74.7	16.0
1968	73.2	14.7
1967	72.5	14.6
1964	69.2	12.8
1960	60.7	11.1
1950	51.7	7.7
1940	37.8	5.8
White:		
1972	81.5	19.9
1971	79.5	17.9
1970	77.8	17.3
1969	77.0	17.0
1968	75.3	15.6
1967	74.8	15.5
1964	72.1	13.6
1960	63.7	11.8
1950	55.2	8.1
1940	41.2	6.4
Negro and other races:		
1972	66.6	11.6
1971	60.5	9.5
1970	58.4	10.0
1969	57.5	9.1
1968	57.6	7.9
1967	55.7	8.3
1964	48.0	7.0
1960	38.6	5.4
1950	23.4	2.8
1940	12.1	1.6

Source: 1972--March Current Population Survey data, noninstitutional resident population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks. 1964-1971--March Current Population Survey data, resident population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks. 1940-1960--census data, resident population. 1940 census data based on complete count; 1950 census data based on 20-percent sample; 1960 census data based on 25-percent sample.

The percent of young men and women who had gone on to college after completing their high school education was about 10 percentage points higher in 1972 than in 1960. In 1972, 53 percent of the men 20 to 24 years old who were high school graduates had also completed some college as compared with 42 percent in 1960. The comparable figures for women were 42 percent in 1972 and 33 percent in 1960.

Table 19. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD WHO HAVE COMPLETED 1 YEAR OF COLLEGE OR MORE: 1960 TO 1972

(Numbers in thousands)

Year and sex	Total, high school graduates[1]	Completed 1 year of college or more	
		Number	Percent
MALE			
1972	6,875	3,663	53.3
1971	6,373	3,398	53.3
1970	5,774	3,028	52.4
1969	5,267	2,741	52.0
1968	5,090	2,688	52.8
1965	4,413	2,017	45.7
1960	3,269	1,379	42.2
FEMALE			
1972	7,381	3,080	41.7
1971	7,139	3,097	43.4
1970	6,777	2,824	41.7
1969	6,310	2,542	40.3
1968	5,990	2,497	41.7
1965	4,933	1,655	33.5
1960	3,598	1,179	32.8

[1]Persons who had completed 4 years of high school or some college.

Source: 1972--Current Population Survey data, noninstitutional resident population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks. 1965-1971--March Current Population Survey data, resident population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks. 1960 census data based on a 25-percent sample of the resident population.

Young persons of voting age are not as likely to vote as are older persons. In the 1972 election, about 50 percent of the 18- to 24-year olds reported that they had voted, as compared with 66 percent of the population 25 years old and over. White youths were more likely to report that they voted than were Negro youths, 52 percent compared to 35 percent.

Table 20. REPORTED VOTER PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS 18 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY AGE AND RACE: NOVEMBER 1972 AND 1968

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Race and age	1972			1968		
	Persons of voting age	Reported voting		Persons of voting age	Reported voting	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
All races	136,203	85,765	63.0	116,535	78,964	67.8
18 to 20 years[1]	11,022	5,318	48.3	432	144	33.3
21 to 24 years	13,590	6,896	50.7	11,170	5,707	51.1
25 years and over	111,591	73,551	65.9	104,933	73,112	69.7
White	121,241	78,167	64.5	104,521	72,213	69.1
18 to 20 years[1]	9,519	4,856	51.0	337	120	35.6
21 to 24 years	11,820	6,218	52.6	9,820	5,184	52.8
25 years and over	99,902	67,093	67.2	94,363	66,908	70.9
Negro	13,494	7,033	52.1	10,935	6,300	57.6
18 to 20 years[1]	1,384	425	30.7	90	24	26.7
21 to 24 years	1,610	615	38.2	1,255	488	38.9
25 years and over	10,500	5,993	57.1	9,591	5,788	60.3

[1]Comprises the population 18 to 20 years old in Georgia and Kentucky, 19 and 20 years in Alaska, and 20 years in Hawaii in 1968, and all persons in 1972.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Young adults are highly mobile. For example, about 44 percent of the population 22 to 24 years old moved between March 1970 and March 1971. Those 14 to 17 years old, who were more likely to be enrolled in high school and living with their parents, were least likely to have moved--87 percent were nonmovers.

Table 21. MOBILITY STATUS BETWEEN MARCH 1970 AND MARCH 1971 OF PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY AGE

(Numbers in thousands. Resident population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks)

Mobility status[1]	Total, 14 to 24 years	14 to 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 and 21 years	22 to 24 years
Total	39,832	16,023	7,215	6,415	10,179
Movers	10,540	1,998	1,713	2,368	4,461
Nonmovers	28,621	13,966	5,450	3,875	5,330
Abroad on March 1, 1970	670	59	52	172	387
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Movers	26.5	12.5	23.7	36.9	43.8
Nonmovers	71.9	87.2	75.5	60.4	52.4
Abroad on March 1, 1970	1.7	0.4	0.7	2.7	3.8

[1] Unmarried students who temporarily live away from home while attending college are counted as members of their parental families and would not be counted as movers unless their families had also moved.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Young white men and women are less likely to be single than young Negro men and women. Two-thirds of the white men and three-fourths of the Negro men 18 to 24 years old were single in March 1972. Among white women of this age 47 percent were single as compared with 58 percent of the Negro women.

Table 22. MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND SEX: MARCH 1972

(Resident population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks and inmates of institutions)

Marital status	All races		White		Negro	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total.....thous...	11,876	12,775	10,401	11,050	1,336	1,577
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	67.6	48.4	66.5	47.0	75.4	58.2
Married.....	31.5	49.4	32.6	50.8	23.9	40.1
Separated.....	1.0	2.8	0.8	2.0	2.7	8.4
Other, spouse absent.....	0.7	1.7	0.7	1.6	0.6	2.0
Widowed.....	-	0.2	-	0.2	-	0.3
Divorced.....	0.9	2.0	0.9	2.1	0.7	1.4

- Represents zero.

Source: Current Population Survey.

The proportion single among women 18 to 24 years old increased from 41 percent in 1960 to 48 percent in 1972. Among men of this age, the percent single increased from 65 percent to 68 percent.

Table 23. PERCENT SINGLE OF PERSONS 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY AGE, RACE, AND SEX: 1972 AND 1960

Age and sex	All races		White		Negro and other races	
	1972	1960	1972	1960	1972	1960
Male, 18 to 24 years old	67.6	64.9	66.5	64.4	75.0	67.8
18 years old	95.6	94.6	95.2	94.5	98.4	94.7
19 years old	87.9	87.1	87.3	87.0	91.9	88.0
20 years old	79.5	75.8	79.1	75.6	82.7	77.2
21 years old	67.9	63.4	66.2	63.0	77.7	66.4
22 years old	58.2	51.6	58.0	51.1	60.0	55.8
23 years old	45.8	40.5	44.6	39.8	53.7	45.3
24 years old	33.7	33.4	31.9	32.5	49.1	39.8
Female, 18 to 24 years old	48.4	40.5	47.0	39.7	57.8	45.6
18 years old	83.0	75.6	82.0	75.5	89.0	76.4
19 years old	70.7	59.7	69.8	59.4	76.2	61.7
20 years old	59.0	46.0	58.6	45.2	61.9	51.4
21 years old	44.3	34.6	43.6	33.7	49.0	41.3
22 years old	36.3	25.6	33.9	24.5	50.8	33.7
23 years old	25.3	19.4	23.3	18.3	40.2	27.0
24 years old	17.4	15.7	15.8	14.6	29.4	23.3

Source: 1972--March Current Population Survey, resident population excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks and inmates of institutions: 1960--census data based on 25-percent sample of the resident population.

Ninety-nine percent of all noninstitutional young persons 18 to 24 years old lived in households in 1971 and 91 percent were members of primary families. Twenty-nine percent of the men were heads of their own families and 43 percent of the women were wives of family heads. Negro men of this age were less likely than white men to head their own family. Negro women were more likely than white women to be heads of families and less likely to be wives of family heads.

Table 24. FAMILY STATUS OF PERSONS 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND SEX: MARCH 1972

(Resident population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in barracks and inmates of institutions)

Family status	All races		White		Negro	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 18 to 24 years old.....thousands..	11,876	12,775	10,401	11,050	1,336	I,577
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION						
Total persons, 18 to 24 years old.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In primary families.....	89.2	91.8	89.1	91.4	90.6	94.3
Head of family.....	28.5	4.1	29.8	2.7	19.1	13.7
Wife of head.....	(X)	42.9	(X)	45.4	(X)	26.2
In subfamilies.....	2.0	3.6	1.7	3.0	3.9	7.4
Others in primary families.....	58.7	41.2	57.5	40.3	67.7	47.0
In secondary families.....	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	-	1.0
Primary individuals.....	5.8	4.4	5.9	4.6	5.1	3.2
Secondary individuals.....	4.8	3.5	4.8	3.8	4.3	1.6
In households.....	4.2	3.2	4.3	3.5	3.4	1.6
In group quarters.....	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.8	-

- Represents zero. X Not applicable.

Source: Current Population Survey.

The average number of births expected by wives 18 to 24 years old declined from 2.4 to 2.3 between 1971 and 1972, and represented a continuation of the downturn in the birth expecations of young wives. The corresponding figure in 1967 was 2.9.

Table 25. AVERAGE NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO DATE AND TOTAL BIRTHS EXPECTED FOR WIVES 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD REPORTING ON EXPECTATIONS, BY AGE: 1965 TO 1972

Year	All races		White		Negro	
	Births to date	Total births expected	Births to date	Total births expected	Births to date	Total births expected
1972	0.9	2.3	0.9	2.2	1.3	2.4
1971	1.0	2.4	0.9	2.4	1.4	2.6
1967	1.2	2.9	1.1	2.9	1.8	2.8
1965	(NA)	(NA)	1.3	3.1	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Among wives 18 to 24 years old, fertility level varies by educational level--wives with less than a high school education have had more children than wives with some college education. However, wives with some college education expect more additional children than wives with less than high school.

Total births expected by wives 18 and 19 years old and 20 and 21 years old do not vary significantly by educational attainment because the higher fertility to date of the wives with lower educational levels is offset by their lower future birth expectations.

For wives 22 to 24 years old, those at the higher educational levels expect more additional births but fewer births overall than those with less education.

Table 26. BIRTHS TO DATE, ADDITIONAL BIRTHS EXPECTED, AND TOTAL BIRTHS EXPECTED PER 1,000 WIVES 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD REPORTING ON EXPECTATIONS, BY AGE AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, FOR THE NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION: 1972

Age and educational attainment	Births to date	Additional births expected		Total births expected	Percent of expected fertility completed
		In 5 years	In all future years		
18 TO 24 YEARS					
Total	928	951	1,327	2,255	41.1
Less than high school, 4 years	1,568	671	892	2,460	63.7
High school, 4 years	881	987	1,327	2,208	39.9
College, 1 year or more	438	1,130	1,737	2,175	20.1
18 AND 19 YEARS					
Total	608	1,060	1,621	2,229	27.3
Less than high school, 4 years	942	969	1,308	2,251	41.9
High school, 4 years	386	1,174	1,851	2,236	17.3
College, 1 year or more	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
20 AND 21 YEARS					
Total	721	1,025	1,489	2,210	32.6
Less than high school, 4 years	1,411	679	896	2,308	61.2
High school, 4 years	625	1,123	1,562	2,187	28.6
College, 1 year or more	260	1,116	1,921	2,181	11.9
22 TO 24 YEARS					
Total	1,098	891	1,184	2,282	48.1
Less than high school, 4 years	2,004	500	658	2,662	75.3
High school, 4 years	1,122	876	1,090	2,212	50.7
College, 1 year or more	503	1,157	1,677	2,181	55.3

B Base less than 75,000.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Overall for every 1,000 young women 15 to 24 years old who were married and living with an employed husband there were 808 own children under 5 years old. But young married women of this age whose husband was employed as a professional, technical, and kindred worker had fewer than the average (613 per 1,000).

Table 27. OCCUPATION OF EMPLOYED HUSBAND AND FAMILY INCOME IN 1971 OF WOMEN 15 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD: MARCH 1972

(Numbers in thousands)

Subject	Women married, husband present	Children under 5 years old[1]	
		Number	Per 1,000 women
Total	5,917	4,663	788
MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF EMPLOYED HUSBAND			
Total	5,014	4,051	808
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	658	403	613
Managers and administrators, except farm	396	257	649
Sales workers	297	203	684
Clerical and kindred workers	362	245	676
Craftsmen and kindred workers	1,149	1,055	918
Operatives, including transport workers	1,284	1,154	899
Laborers, except farm	440	388	882
Farmers and farm managers	62	61	(B)
Farm laborers and foremen	83	74	897
Service workers, including private household	283	209	738
FAMILY INCOME IN 1971			
Total	[2]100.0	[2]100.0	788
Under $2,000	3.2	2.8	701
$2,000 to $2,999	3.7	3.1	656
$3,000 to $3,999	5.9	6.6	879
$4,000 to $4,999	7.3	7.5	817
$5,000 to $6,999	17.7	19.5	867
$7,000 to $9,999	28.0	31.3	881
$10,000 and over	34.2	29.1	671

B Base less than 75,000.

[1]Children living with their mother. [2]Percent distribution; absolute numbers not available.

Source: Current Population Survey.

The ratio of own children under 5 years old to ever-married women 15 to 24 years old has declined by 24 percent since 1960. The decline has been greatest among the better educated women, but has occurred at all educational levels.

Table 28. CHARACTERISTICS OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN, 15 TO 24 YEARS OLD BY NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD: MARCH 1972 AND APRIL 1960

Years of school completed and labor force status	Children under 5 per 1,000 women ever married[1]		
	1972	1960	Percent change, 1960 to 1972
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED			
Total	792	1,047	-24.4
Elementary: 8 years or less	1,183	1,221	-3.1
High school: 1 to 3 years	1,037	1,181	-12.2
4 years	793	987	-19.7
College: 1 to 3 years	557	781	-28.7
4 years	219	484	-54.8
LABOR FORCE STATUS			
Total	792	1,047	-24.4
Labor force	509	612	-16.8
Not in labor force	1,055	1,256	-16.0

[1]Children living with their mother.

Source: 1972--Current Population Survey, noninstitutional population. 1960--census data based on a 5-percent sample of the total population.

Among young men 20 to 24 years old in 1972, 73 percent were in the civilian labor force, 12 percent were in the Armed Forces, and 14 percent were not in the labor force. Most of those not in the labor force were attending school or college.

Table 29. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS 16 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND SEX: 1972

(Civilian noninstitutional population. Annual average data)

Employment status	Male			Female		
	16 and 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years	16 and 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years
Total population....thousands..	4,092	3,911	9,075	3,970	3,815	9,030
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION						
Total population.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force.....	48.3	72.0	85.9	36.6	55.6	59.1
In Armed Forces.....	0.8	7.8	12.1	-	0.2	0.2
In civilian labor force.....	47.5	64.3	73.8	36.6	55.4	58.9
Employed.....	38.8	55.3	67.0	29.7	46.9	53.4
Unemployed.....	8.7	9.0	6.8	6.9	8.4	5.5
Not in labor force.....	51.7	28.0	14.1	63.4	44.4	40.9
Keeping house.....	0.3	0.2	0.1	6.8	16.1	31.7
Going to school.....	42.6	22.0	10.0	47.5	23.4	7.2
Unable to work.....	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2
Other reasons.....	8.7	5.4	3.4	8.9	4.6	1.8

- Represents zero.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Among employed men 20 to 24 years old in 1972, the vast majority (94 percent) were wage and salary workers in nonagricultural industries. Only 4 percent of the employed men of this age were in agricultural industries, but 12 percent of the employed men 16 and 17 years old were working in agricultural industries.

Table 30. EMPLOYED PERSONS 16 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY CLASS OF WORKER, AGE, AND SEX: 1971

(Civilian noninstitutional population. Annual average data)

Class of worker	Male			Female		
	16 and 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years	16 and 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years
Total employed.....thousands..	1,589	2,161	6,076	1,181	1,791	4,818
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION						
Total employed.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nonagricultural industries.....	87.8	93.3	95.9	96.4	98.3	99.1
Wage and salary workers.....	85.0	91.8	93.6	94.4	97.2	97.1
Private household workers.....	4.4	0.8	0.3	20.0	4.3	1.8
Government.....	6.5	7.2	11.9	8.2	11.4	19.2
Other.....	74.1	83.8	81.4	66.2	81.5	76.2
Self-employed.....	1.8	1.0	2.2	1.4	0.8	1.8
Unpaid family workers.....	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.3
Agricultural industries.....	12.2	6.7	4.1	3.6	1.7	0.9

Source: Current Population Survey.

A majority of young men workers under 25 years old are employed in blue-collar occupations, whereas a majority of women workers of this age are employed in white-collar occupations. Those 20 to 24 years old, whether men or women, are more likely to be white-collar workers than are those 16 to 19 years old.

Table 31. EMPLOYED PERSONS 16 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY OCCUPATION GROUP, AGE, AND SEX: 1971

(Civilian noninstitutional population. Annual average data)

Occupation	Male		Female	
	16 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	16 to 19 years	20 to 24 years
Total employed.....thousands..	3,750	6,076	2,972	4,818
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
Total employed.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers.....	16.9	32.3	51.7	70.8
Professional and technical.....	2.7	11.5	3.0	16.0
Managers and administrators exc. farm.....	1.4	5.8	0.5	1.9
Sales workers.....	6.1	5.8	11.8	5.8
Clerical and kindred.....	6.8	9.1	36.5	47.0
Blue-collar workers.....	56.0	55.9	10.8	11.6
Craftsmen and kindred.....	8.7	19.4	0.5	0.8
Operatives, incl. transp.....	22.2	24.4	8.7	10.0
Laborers, except farm.....	25.1	12.0	1.5	0.8
Service workers.....	19.2	8.5	35.4	17.1
Private household workers.....	0.3	0.1	10.5	1.8
Service workers, except private household..	18.9	8.4	24.9	15.3
Farm workers.....	7.9	3.4	2.1	0.6
Farmers and farm managers.....	0.4	0.9	(Z)	(Z)
Farm laborers and foremen.....	7.5	2.5	2.0	0.6

Z Less than 0.05.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Fifty-eight percent of the young men 14 to 19 years old and 48 percent of the women had incomes in 1971. However, for 62 percent of the men and 68 percent of the women with incomes the incomes were under $1,000. Among those 20 to 24 years old, 94 percent of the men and 76 percent of the women had incomes. The median for men of this age was $4,132 and for women $2,623.

Table 32. TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1971 OF PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY SEX

(Persons 14 to 24 years old as of March 1972. Excludes inmates of institutions and members of the Armed Forces living in barracks)

Total money income	Male		Female	
	14 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	14 to 19 years	20 to 24 years
Number of persons.....thousands..	11,870	8,247	11,791	8,992
Number of persons with income.....thousands..	6,885	7,762	5,647	6,866
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $1,000[1].....	62.1	12.6	68.0	22.8
$1,000 to $1,999.....	18.4	11.9	17.6	17.9
$2,000 to $2,999.....	9.0	12.1	7.2	13.5
$3,000 to $3,999.....	5.1	11.9	3.3	11.3
$4,000 to $4,999.....	2.0	11.1	2.1	12.7
$5,000 to $5,999.....	1.7	10.1	1.0	8.8
$6,000 to $6,999.....	0.8	8.1	0.3	5.7
$7,000 and over.....	0.9	22.1	0.3	7.3
Median income.....dollars..	685	4,132	491	2,623
Mean income.....dollars..	1,163	4,508	932	3,093
Year-round full-time workers:				
Percent of total excluding Armed Forces....	6.6	39.1	5.6	32.9
Median income.....dollars..	3,669	6,674	3,497	5,180
Mean income.....dollars..	3,680	6,643	3,343	5,228

[1]Including loss.

Source: Current Population Survey.

About one-half of all family heads 14 to 24 years old was a year round full-time worker in 1971. Among these families, the median income was $8,822.

Table 33. FAMILIES WITH HEAD 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1971

(Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1972. Excludes inmates of institutions and members of the Armed Forces living in barracks)

Total money income	Families with head 14 to 24 years old	Unrelated individuals 14 to 24 years old
Number.....thousands..	3,993	2,374
Percent.....	100.0	100.0
Under $1,000.....	3.1	21.4
$1,000 to $1,999.....	5.2	14.5
$2,000 to $2,999.....	6.5	13.1
$3,000 to $3,999.....	8.3	12.6
$4,000 to $4,999.....	8.8	10.3
$5,000 to $5,999.....	9.9	9.6
$6,000 to $6,999.....	9.0	5.1
$7,000 to $7,999.....	10.0	4.9
$8,000 to $8,999.....	7.2	3.5
$9,000 to $9,999.....	8.5	1.6
$10,000 and over.....	23.5	3.3
Median income.....dollars..	6,909	3,057
Mean income.....dollars..	7,270	3,542
Head year-round full-time worker:		
Percent of total excluding Armed Forces.....	49.7	30.1
Median income.....dollars..	8,822	5,841
Mean income.....dollars..	9,115	6,035

Source: Current Population Survey.

About 4.0 million, or 13 percent, of all persons 14 to 21 years old were below the low-income level in 1971. About 53 percent of low-income white persons in this age group were in families headed by men, while about the same proportion of young Negroes were in families with a woman as head (52 percent). About 20 percent of young white persons were living alone or with nonrelatives as compared to only 6 percent for poor Negroes in this age group.

The poverty rates in 1971 for persons 14 to 21 years old varied considerably by race and by sex of the family head. About 8 percent of young persons in families with a male head were below the low-income level as compared to 34 percent for such persons in families headed by a woman. Young Negroes were nearly three times as likely to be poor as young whites. About one-half of all unrelated individuals 14 to 21 years old were below the low-income level.

Table 34. PERSONS 14 TO 21 YEARS OLD BELOW THE LOW-INCOME LEVEL IN 1971 BY RACE AND SEX OF HEAD

Age, sex, and family status	Number below low-income level			Percent below low-income level		
	All races	White	Negro	All races	White	Negro
Total, 14 to 21 years....	4,033	2,652	1,322	13.2	10.1	33.6
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	(X)	(X)	(X)
In families.....	84.6	79.9	94.4	11.6	8.4	32.7
With male head.....	49.4	53.2	42.4	7.9	6.3	22.6
With female head.....	35.1	26.6	51.9	34.2	25.6	51.5
Unrelated individuals.....	15.4	20.1	5.7	53.2	51.7	64.7
Male.....	7.4	9.4	3.2	49.1	47.8	(B)
Female.....	8.0	10.7	2.5	57.7	55.8	(B)

B Base less than 75,000. X Not applicable.

Source: Current Population Survey.

About 1.9 million young men 20 to 24 years old in the civilian noninstitutional population have served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era. This represents about one-third of all men in the age group. Ninety-two percent of Vietnam era veterans were in the labor force compared to 86 percent of the total age group 20 to 24 years old.

Table 35. LABOR FORCE STATUS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR ALL MALES AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD: 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population third quarter average)

Labor force status and employment status	Total, 20 to 24 years old	Vietnam era veterans	
		Number	Percent of total
Total	6,113	1,913	31.3
In labor force	5,276	1,752	33.2
Percent	86.3	91.6	(X)
Employed	4,869	1,581	32.5
Unemployed	407	171	42.0
Unemployment rate[1]	7.7	9.7	(X)
Not in labor force	837	161	19.2

X Not applicable.

[1]The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates were 8.2 for the total age group and 10.7 for Vietnam era veterans.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data. The data for this report--much of which were published previously -- are based largely on results obtained in the March 1972 and October 1972 Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census. Some data were also obtained from other Current Population Surveys and the decennial censuses of the population. In most cases, estimates for 1910 through 1960 (10 year intervals) are based on the corresponding decennial census for that year.

The present Current Population Survey sample is spread over 461 areas comprising 923 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 47,000 occupied housing units are eligible for interview each month. Of this number, 2,000 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 47,000, there are also about 8,000 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

Data collected in January 1967 through July 1972 in the CPS were based on a sample spread over 449 areas comprising 863 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 47,000 occupied housing units were eligible for interview each month. From May 1956 through 1966 approximately 35,000 occupied housing units were eligible for interview each month. Approximately 21,000 households were eligible for interview each month in samples taken before May 1956.

The estimating procedure used in the CPS involves the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from the previous decennial census of population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimates. Estimates based on a sample may differ somewhat from the figures obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability; that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. The standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate differs from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

All statements of comparison appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. Most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. Thus, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

The data in this report drawn from the complete counts of the 1960 or earlier decennial censuses have no sampling error. Other data from these censuses are based on tabulations of a sample of the returns in the census and, therefore, have some sampling error. However, these samples are so large that one can treat the sampling errors for this data as negligible.

It should be noted that data obtained from the CPS and the data obtained from the 1960 or earlier decennial censuses are not entirely comparable. This is due in large part to differences in interviewer experience and training and in the differing survey processes. This accounts for an additional component of error not reflected in the standard error tables. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing results between these different sources.

Tables of standard errors for estimates and percentages for characteristics pertaining to total or white population (Tables A and C) and to Negro and other races (Tables B and D) are presented below.

Table E presents factors which are to be applied to the figures in tables A, B, C, and D, to produce standard errors for the various subject matter areas. For example, to produce approximate standard errors for total or white estimates

for a "low income" subject based on data collected in the CPS after January 1967, multiply the appropriate figure in tables A or C by the factor 1.1 for families or 2.2 for persons.

Table A. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers, Total or White Population

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	7,000	2,500,000..	71,000
50,000.....	10,000	5,000,000..	100,000
100,000.....	14,000	10,000,000.	138,000
250,000.....	23,000	25,000,000.	204,000
500,000.....	32,000	50,000,000.	253,000
1,000,000...	45,000		

The figures presented in all standard error tables are approximations to the standard errors of the various estimates shown in this report. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more.

Table B. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers, Negro and Other Races

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
10,000.....	5,000	250,000....	26,000
25,000.....	8,000	500,000....	37,000
35,000.....	10,000	1,000,000..	51,000
50,000.....	12,000	2,500,000..	76,000
75,000.....	14,000	5,000,000..	96,000
100,000.....	17,000	10,000,000.	96,000

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. Table 20 of this report shows that 6,896,000 persons, 21 to 24 years old, reported

Table C. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Total or White Population

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	2.9	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	6.2	3.9	2.8	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
50.....	7.2	4.5	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2

Table D. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Negro and Other Races

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)							
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
2 or 98.....	3.3	2.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
5 or 95.....	5.1	3.6	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4
10 or 90.....	7.1	5.0	3.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5
25 or 75.....	10.2	7.2	4.6	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7
50.....	11.8	8.4	5.3	3.7	2.6	1.7	1.2	0.8

voting in the November 1972 elections. Table A shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 114,000. Table E shows the factor for voting data is 1.4. Multiplying the 114,000 by this factor (114,000 x 1.4 = 160,000) produces an approximation to the standard error on the estimate. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 160,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 320,000.

Table E. Factors To Be Applied to Tables A, B, C, and D for the Different Types of Data

Type of data[1]	CPS data collected Jan. 1967 to present		CPS data collected May 1956 to Dec. 1966		CPS data collected prior to May 1956	
	Persons	Families	Persons	Families	Persons	Families
Educational attainment	1.0	-	1.2	-	1.6	-
Marital status	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.1
Family composition	0.9	0.7	-	-	-	-
Mobility[2]	1.9	-	-	-	-	-
Voting	1.4	-	1.7	-	2.2	-
Labor force status	0.9	-	1.1	-	1.4	-
Occupation	0.9	-	-	-	-	-
Income	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.0
Low income	2.2	1.1	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero.
[1]Estimated totals for age, sex, race groups and complete census data have no sampling errors.
[2]Use 1.7 for estimates less than 5,000,000.

Table F. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Persons Enrolled in School, Total or White Population

Numbers in thousands

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age, sex group									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
10	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
20	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
30	6.9	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
40	7.4	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
50	7.5	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
75	6.5	10.9	11.9	12.1	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
100	-	11.6	13.4	13.9	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3
200	-	9.5	16.0	19.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
300	-	-	16.0	22.0	24.0	24.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
400	-	-	13.0	23.0	27.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	29.0	29.0
500	-	-	-	24.0	30.0	31.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
750	-	-	-	21.0	34.0	38.0	38.0	39.0	39.0	39.0
1,000	-	-	-	-	37.0	42.0	44.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
2,000	-	-	-	-	30.0	52.0	60.0	63.0	63.0	64.0
3,000	-	-	-	-	-	52.0	69.0	76.0	77.0	78.0
4,000	-	-	-	-	-	42.0	74.0	86.0	88.0	89.0
5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	75.0	95.0	98.0	100.0
7,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	65.0	109.0	119.0	121.0
10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116.0	134.0	139.0
20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95.0	164.0	190.0
30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164.0	217.0
40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134.0	232.0
50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	237.0
75,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205.0

- Represents zero.

This estimate of 6,896,000 voters 21 to 24 years old, represents 50.7 percent of the total 13,590,000 persons 21 to 24 years old. Table C shows the standard error of 50.7 percent on a base of 13,590,000 to be approximately 0.7 percentage points. Multiplying 0.7 by the factor, 1.4, from Table I, the standard error of 50.7 percent on a base of 13,590,000 for voting data is approximately 1.0 percentage points. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 50.7 percent would be within 1.0 percentage points of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 2.0 percentage points of a complete census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 48.7 to 52.7 percent.

Differences. For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors of each estimate considered separately. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate the true standard error.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference. Table 20 of this report shows that in 1968, 5,707,000 persons 21 to 24 years old reported voting in the November 1968 elections. Thus, the apparent change in the number of persons 21 to 24 years old voting in 1968 and 1972 is 1,189,000. The standard error of 5,896,000 is 160,000 as shown above. Table A shows the standard error on an estimate of 5,707,000 to be approximately 105,000. Multiplying this by the voting factor from table I results in an approximate standard error of 147,000. The standard error of the estimated change of 1,189,000 is about 217,000 = $\sqrt{(160{,}000)^2 + (147{,}000)^2}$. This means the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated difference based on the sample would differ from that derived using complete census figures by less than 217,000. The 68 percent confidence interval around the 1,189,000 change is from 972,000 to 1,406,000, i.e., 1,189,000 ± 217,000. A conclusion that the average estimate of the change derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. The 95 percent confidence interval is 755,000 to 1,623,000 and thus we can conclude with 95 percent confidence that the number of persons 21 to 24 voting in 1972 is actually greater than the number voting in 1968.

Table G. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Persons Enrolled in School, Negro and Other Races

(Numbers in thousands)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age, sex group						
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
10	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
20	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4
30	7.6	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1
40	8.2	9.6	10.1	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.5
50	8.3	10.5	11.1	11.4	11.6	11.7	11.7
75	7.3	12.1	13.3	13.8	14.2	14.3	14.3
100	-	12.9	14.9	16.0	16.0	16.0	17.0
200	-	10.7	18.0	21.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
300	-	-	18.0	24.0	27.0	28.0	28.0
400	-	-	15.0	26.0	30.0	32.0	33.0
500	-	-	-	26.0	33.0	35.0	36.0
750	-	-	-	23.0	38.0	42.0	44.0
1,000	-	-	-	-	41.0	47.0	50.0
2,000	-	-	-	-	34.0	58.0	66.0
3,000	-	-	-	-	-	58.0	76.0
4,000	-	-	-	-	-	48.0	82.0
5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	83.0
7,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	73.0
10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero.